

Serial No. 10/808,591

Attorney Docket No. 26B-031-RCE

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5 and 7-11 are pending. Claims 4 and 6 have been canceled. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-3, 5, and 7-11 were provisionally rejected under nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-7 of copending application No. 10/808,590. The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

In an interview held on 22 August 2006, the undersigned spoke with the examiner about this rejection. The following argument is essentially the argument made by the undersigned at the interview.

Claim 1 of the present application requires, among other things, a blocking member that is a separate and independent part from the mounting base portion. For example, in the illustrated embodiment, the blocking member corresponds to the blocking piece 36. However, the claims of copending application No. 10/808,590 require a blocking piece that is integrally formed with the mounting base portion at a side of the base portion that is opposite to the seal portion. Thus, the blocking piece of application No. 10/808,590 cannot satisfy the claim language of claim 1 of the present application because the blocking piece of application No. 10/808,590 is not a "separate and independent" part. This point is not mentioned in the double patenting rejection. For this reason, the double patenting rejection should be withdrawn.

Examiner Chevalier essentially agreed that the double patenting rejection is flawed at the interview but said that she would need to review the rejection again after reviewing the applicants' argument.

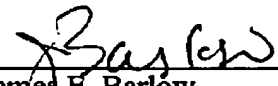
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In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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